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### God Appoints Pastor-Teachers and Also Appointed Christ as a High Priest

W. O. Vaught

*Ouachita Baptist University*

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GOD APPOINTS PASTOR-TEACHERS AND ALSO  
APPOINTED CHRIST AS HIGH PRIEST

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS  
NUMBER 30  
HEBREWS 5:3-5

Dr. W. O. Vaught  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Little Rock, Arkansas

In verses one and two of this chapter, we have seen this--"For every high priest being taken from the source of mankind is ordained on behalf of men in reference to things pertaining to doctrine from face to face with God. That he might offer both gifts and sacrifices on behalf of sins. Able to be compassionate to the ignorant ones and the ones being deceived, in as much also he himself is encumbered with weaknesses and imperfection."

HEBREWS 5:3 "And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins." We have "kai" plus "dia" and accusative of "autos" and it means "and because of this (the fact that all high priests prior to Christ had an old sin nature and also committed personal sins)." Then we read, "He ought" and this is a present, active, indicative of "apheilo" and this is a verb of obligation. So the high priest was obligated to offer for his own sins as well as for the sins of the people.

The Pastor-Teacher Is Obligated To The People

Here is a very important principle. The pastor-teacher is first benefitted by his own study, and then the people are benefitted when he passes this teaching on to them. This phrase actually says, "He is under obligation" as concerning the people. "Peri" means "concerning" and "the people" refers to those who are positive toward doctrine. Then we have "as also for himself." The pastor-teacher must always be positive toward doctrine. DON'T EVER ACCEPT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS. I find more and more it is my daily prayer that I will never accept a substitute for Bible Doctrine. This is not possible without Bible Doctrine, and positive volition toward Bible Doctrine. There is another point that is very important. We must always teach the whole Book, not just the favorite passages of certain people.

You cannot live by enthusiasm.

Many people get quite excited about Revelation or about prophetic passages. The 5th chapter of Hebrews used to leave me cold, but I am ashamed of how I have treated this passage in the past. But we may never come this way again, and therefore, I believe we ought to get all that God put here for us to get.

The Priest Was A Teacher

As the priest offered the animal sacrifices, he would stop and instruct the people so they would understand what was going on. It was not just the responsibility of the priest to offer the sacrifices, but it was his responsibility to teach the Word of God as he offered the sacrifices. The priest had to know it so he could teach it. The pastor-teacher has to teach himself before he can teach the people. The words "to offer" are a present, active, indicative of "prosphero" and this means this was his function all the time. He was to teach and teach and teach. This was the obligation of the priest and this is the obligation of the pastor-teacher. Since the priest and the pastor-teacher have old sin natures, they need to care for their own sins as well as for the sins of the people. Every high priest and every pastor-teacher had sins to be cared for, but when we come to Jesus Christ, he had no sins of his own for which he had to atone.

HEBREWS 5:4 "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." This verse says "kai" and "Ouch" and "tis" and it means "And no one." "Taketh" is a present, active, indicative of "lambano" and it means "No one seizes this honor." Any man to be a priest or a pastor-teacher must realize he is ordained of God to his office.

#### The pulpit by appointment

No one takes this high responsibility without having been appointed by God. The pulpit can be a torture chamber to the preacher unless he stands there under the appointment from God. He is appointed by God and is responsible to God. Jesus Christ is a high priest and he appoints all pastor-teachers. It also means that anyone who tries to get in on the act and instruct the pastor-teacher is in for discipline from God. This word honor has the definite article before it and it means "the state of honor." So anyone who is appointed by God to communicate the Word of God receives this state of honor. It may be a little church or a large church but every pastor, every teacher for God is in a state of honor. Every attack and criticism on him always bounces back on the person giving the criticism. God can handle the priest and the pastor-teacher better than anyone else. God says to all of us, "I can handle them much better than you can." God knows what he is doing and he doesn't need your help. He can straighten out the pastor-teacher much better than you can. Even at best the pastor-teacher gets plenty of criticism without you adding to it. Criticism usually follows the pastor-teacher like roaches follow a hippy. Now the priest and the pastor-teacher is in a place of honor which he does not really deserve. No one has ever earned or deserved such a place of honor. It always is, just like salvation, it is a gift from God. If we got what we deserved we would all be stripped of this honor. So please notice the distinction--the pastor-teacher doesn't have honor but a state of honor.

Illustration I was saved along with 11 others. All twelve of us stood there at the front of the church that night when we publically made our profession of faith in Christ. I was one from that twelve called to be a pastor-teacher. That doesn't mean that I was any better than those other eleven, it simply means that God chose me for this work and placed me in that state of honor. I never earned or deserved this place. Since God put me in that circle of his state of honor, then no one can break through the "ring of fire" around the pastor-teacher except the one who placed him there. So in reality, it is a waste of time criticizing other servants of God because God is going to care for them and your criticism will bounce back on you.

#### Never Question God

When you criticize the pastor-teacher who was put in his place by God, in reality, you are actually criticizing God for placing him there. I am sure many people in the ancient world often questioned God's judgment in calling the Apostle Paul. When they first saw him, they saw a small man, unattractive, high voice, and nothing in the world to attract attention. But once he opened his mouth and began to teach, the longer they listened the more they realized that here was a man sent from God. God knows the end from the beginning, and therefore, he calls whom he will and he will look after them until the end.

Next we have the words "unto himself" from "he autou" and it means he doesn't possess this calling because he called himself. Now we have the contrast. "Alla" is the word for contrast. Next we have a present, passive, participle from "kaleo." This is a static present and it means this is the condition that always exists. The passive voice means he received this call and he didn't call himself. The participle means that these same circumstances will be present in every single God-called man. Then we have "hupo" plus the ablative of "theos" and it means "by the God." God is the agent who makes the appointment. Then we have "kathosper" and it means "just the same as" Aaron. This is a great illustration for he was the founder of the Levitical Priesthood. He was three years older than Moses.

#### The Story Of How God Appointed Aaron

This is told in Numbers 17.

God made it so plain that everyone knew beyond any shadow of doubt that Aaron was the one chosen. That budding rod would later be placed in the Ark of The Covenant inside the Holy of Holies so the people would remember that these priests were God-called men.

#### Saul Blundered When He Played The Part of Priest.

Saul was not of the Tribe of Levi, but was of the Tribe of Benjamin. He couldn't play the part of high priest and he was clobbered for doing so. This story is told in 1 Samuel 13:8-14. Saul would have been the line of the kings but God cut him off and replaced him with the line of David. It is a dangerous thing to attempt to take God's work into your own hands. Needless to say, Saul lost this battle. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-23 and you read the tragic story of a man who took God's work in his own hands and God had to cast him aside.

#### The Preacher's Prayer

Every preacher ought to pray every day what I call the preacher's prayer--"Oh God, don't take your hands off me." Psalm 118:23 is more of a preacher's state than most anything you can describe. Billy Graham says he thinks about this verse almost every day.

#### Uzziah Blundered By Playing Part Of Priest

2 Chronicles 26 tells how Uzziah tried to play the part of the God-anointed priest and for it he got leprosy. Verse 16 documents his disaster. This leprosy lasted until the day of his death. Then we have "Just as even Aaron was."

In these next verses we are coming to probably the most beautiful part of the Book of Hebrews.

HEBREWS 5:5 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee." We have the words "houtos kai" and it means "In this manner also." We have had a summary of the priesthood prior to the time of Christ, but now we are coming to him. This is a transitional phrase.

"Glorified not" is an aorist, active, indicative of "doxzozo" plus "ouk". This states the certainty of this past event. Christ did exactly this thing. He did not glorify himself. It emphasizes the fact that we have a new unique High Priest, unlike anything that had gone before him. It is a part of the doctrine of divine decrees. The authority of the appointment of the Lord Jesus Christ as High Priest was

in the hands of God, his Father. The active voice recognizes the authority of God to make this appointment. Christ didn't ask for this state of honor. Jesus Christ was not from the Tribe of Levi but rather from the Tribe of Judah. (This does not exclude the priests from the Tribe of Levi functioning in the millennium. They will do that very thing.) This is a dramatic aorist and is a picture of the uniqueness of this high office of Christ. He is unique for he is the only High Priest to come from the Tribe of Judah. He did not put himself there, but God, His Father, put him there.

#### Don't Become A Preacher Because Of Ambition.

This is of vital importance. No man should ever preach or become a pastor-teacher because of his own self appointment. If a man is not God-called, then he is nothing. There is no place in the ministry for inordinate ambition. God promotes and God commissions. There is never need for inordinate ambition under the grace plan of God. Remember how many times I have said it--IF GOD DOESN'T PROMOTE YOU, YOU ARE NOT PROMOTED.

#### Christ Didn't Push Himself

Christ was God and he could have pushed himself into this high office. But he didn't. The words "to be made" come from the aorist, passive, infinitive of "ginomai" and it means to become something he was not before. This aorist tense means that in a point of time in the past he received this appointment. Passive voice means God appointed him and he didn't do it himself. The infinitive means it was God's purpose from eternity past to do this.

Now we have the contrast. "Alla" means "but" and this sets up the contrast. "The one" is what is meant by "he" and it refers to God the Father. Next we have the aorist, active, participle of "laleo" and it means to communicate. God communicated this appointment to Christ. And the communication was made face to face with him in eternity past. We next have a quotation from Psalm 2:7 and this passage is quoted three times in the New Testament.

Look at PSALM 2:7 "I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." "I will declare the decree." The words "I will declare" are from the piel imperfect of "sophar" and means to speak, to reveal something that was previously spoken. David is going to reveal something that was spoken in the past in the divine decrees in eternity past. This refers to that part of the divine decrees which appointed Jesus a high priest upon the occasion of his coming to the earth in the flesh. The word for decree is "choq." Then we have the words "The Lord" and this is from "Jhwh" and they never pronounced the name Jehovah for it was too sacred for them to pronounce that name. This refers to God The Father. Next we have the words "hath said" and this is a kal perfect from "amar." It refers to action that was completed in the past. "Unto me" doesn't refer to David but rather unto Jesus Christ.

#### The Only One

The language here is very important. It actually says, "My Son, you. This is really a statement of his Deity. Was he the Son of God? Right here the Father says he was. The words are "Beni atah" and means "My Son, you and no one else." So here we have deity speaking to deity.

The Day Of The Virgin Birth

"This day" refers to the day he came to earth in the form of a man. The words are "Ha yom" and it means that specific day when he was born in Bethlehem. That was the day Christ was decreed to become the High Priest unlike any other high priest that had ever served, for he would have no sins of his own for which he must atone.

The Only One Born That Way This is another statement of the Virgin Birth. "Have I begotten" is a kal, perfect of "jaladh." That moment he was born the High Priest and the King forever. So God here takes the responsibility for his birth.

Psalm 2:7 is also quoted in Acts 13:30-33

In verse 30 we have the statement of his resurrection.

In verse 32 we see that this message was a message of good tidings.

Now look at verse 33.

We have "Ho Theos" meaning "The God." "Hath fulfilled" is a perfect, active indicative of "ekpleroo" and it means this was accomplished in the past (doctrine of divine decrees) and is now being completed.

"Unto us their children" is a reference to the Jews. Now the words "in that he hath raised up Jesus" do not refer to the bodily resurrection but it means the virgin birth and he has raised him up on the earth to do his great unique work as high priest on the cross.

Then God says, "Thou art my Son" and this is "eimi" a present, active indicative and it means he has always been the Son and will always be the Son of God. "I have begotten thee" is a perfect of "gennao." We studied in Hebrews 1:5 how this verse Psalm 2:7 was quoted to show that Christ was superior to angels and now it is being quoted to show that Christ is superior to all other high priests.